



Region # 14 Regional Service Council Minutes

Meeting Date: June 20, 2006

Meeting Location: Bartholomew County

Council Members Present: Michael Williams, LaDonna Simpson, Ruth Alewine, Helen Jackson, Cindy Doyle-Winslow, Mary Medler, Alfredo Salazar, Jack Tandy, Mark Loyd, and Heather Mollo.

Council Members Absent: Dennis Carmichael

Others In Attendance: Candice McDaniel (intern), Whitney Mallow (intern), Micah Maxwell (IYI), Dave Spencer (Whites,) Julie Stewart, Janice Klein (both from Children's Bureau,) Gayle Green (Johnson County supervisor,) Sarah Sullivan (Shelby County provider,) Deb Brewer (The Villages,) Stacy Lozer (contractor with the State,) and Micah Maxwell (IYI.)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 8:35am

1. Overview of Community Partners for Child Safety Program: Janice Klein and Julie Stewart from Children's Bureau

- The purpose of the program is to involve the community more in child protective services. To be a step ahead of abuse, the community must be involved before families are in the system.
- Previously, it was set up so that referrals could only be accepted on families that were already involved; now, anyone can refer and families can be self-referred.
- Children's Bureau has started a neighborhood-based program in Marion County (4 satellite offices - one for each side of town) that includes Mom's Night Out, Natural Helpers, and forums for parents and CPS workers to discuss issues, and more. This is similar to the region-wide program that will be developed for Region 14.
- 2 Major Goals of this program: Increase family functioning and keep families out of the DCS system for a period of 12 months after referral. The assessment tool used by Healthy Families will

be used for this program and staff will be trained on its use, possibly in July or August.

- Region 14's location for this program has been secured in the Columbus United Way building because this is central to the region.

- The first round of interviews for the Region 14 director have already been completed; 5 individuals were interviewed and 3 of these will be interviewed next week in Bartholomew County by Judge Mollo, Cindy Doyle-Winslow, Mike Williams, Ruthi Alewine, and Mary Medler.

- Janice and Julie anticipate this director to be in place by mid-July and acclimated to the program in time to do a presentation at the 9/19 regional community forum. Services could possibly be in place as soon as October 2006, if the RSC and local offices are in agreement with that.

- Susan Meyer is in charge of furnishings for the office space.

- This program is funded to consist of the director and two community liaisons (direct service providers) and what is being considered is have the director provide services in Bartholomew County and the liaisons to be responsible for two counties each—Johnson/Shelby and Jennings/Jackson.

- There was some discussion and concern in the group regarding the intensity of case management with only 3 employees working in the program. Julie and Janice explained that intensity will be determined on a case by case basis and part of their service will be to educate families about all of the resources available to them in their community. A further question was asked about whether the staff would be providing actual services or clients or if they would just be doing resource and referral duties. It was said that initially the work be a lot of R & R with services/case management being used for families with the greatest and most involved needs. The program will also look at trends of needs in the communities and once they see what parents need, they will plan to put those supports in place. An individual or family assessment will be the first piece of what is done with a family.

- RSC members also expressed concern about the liaisons covering such a wide distance. Julie and Janice expressed that they hope to utilize existing resources and current neighborhood partners. Ruthi asked the approximate cost for a liaison and Janice said that for a person with BA degree and 2 years experience, the cost for salary and benefits would be \$35-40,000. This would not include travel, cell phone, etc.

- Julie and Janice emphasized that they are very open to suggestions, recommendations, and staff configuration ideas.
- Tracking: Names of families that are referred out of Community Partners for Child Safety will be given back to DCS so they will be able to track whether these families re-enter the system within 12 months of contact w/Children's Bureau. The same computer system used by Healthy Families, Datatude, will be used for this program state-wide. Question was asked about how persons would be tracked who have one contact with the program and then move and it was stated that, for now, the local counties would receive the names of all persons contacted by the program and the counties would have to do the tracking to see if there were any CPS involvement within 12 months of the referral.
- Judge Mollo inquired whether this program will work with agencies like ACT Services and Systems of Care, because it sounds as if some of the services they provide are similar, although this program may work with a different population. There will need to be coordination between the various agencies and providers in a community to be certain services are not duplicated.
- Ruthi inquired about how the advisory board for this program will be connected to the RSC. The advisory board will measure outcomes and see that goals are being met. Advisory council members will be volunteers from the community and the agency. Responsibilities of the separate committees need to be clarified.

2. Stacy Lozer: Community forum update

- Stacy reviewed the agenda that she sent out a couple of weeks ago.
- North Christian Church in Columbus has been confirmed as the location for the forum in September.
- Micah Maxwell represented IYI. IYI will be responsible for compiling statewide data and local statistics for the "snapshot" presentations by the County Directors at the forum.
- Stacy will prepare PowerPoint presentations for the Directors to use at the Forum. Stacy would like to get the Save-the-Date postcards out within the next week or so.
- **Lists of names/addresses of possible attendees should be mailed to Region 14 Intern, Candice McDaniel at Candice.McDaniel@dcs.in.gov ASAP.** She is compiling a master mailing list for the event that you will have at your disposal for future reference.

3. Other areas for discussion, by RSC members

- Judge Mollo brought up the 9 month placement limit for residential placements in the new residential contracts and asked that this be put on the next agenda for discussion (concerned about how this affects probation placements).
- Judge Loyd brought up the potential need for strategic planning as a council with regards to creating our own programs based on our own needs. Questions raised included who will facilitate the strategic planning and how much time will be needed for this? Judge Loyd will email Ruthi with a possible facilitator; Judge Mollo will also contact some potential facilitators. The facilitator may come to the RSC meeting in October to do some preplanning.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: July 18, 2006
Columbus
8:30am-10:00am

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:35am